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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration. In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase house-furnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with

each reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.

3. Give particulars of existing woodwork, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.

4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.

5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.

6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc., are desired by mail, otherwise we must Express same at inquirer's expense.

SOME SIMPLE DECORATIVE SUGGESTIONS.

HOW TO MAKE A DOOR PLATE.

CUT a piece of ordinary window glass the size you wish to make the plate, and make it perfectly clean with soap and wash water. Then cut a strip of tin-foil sufficiently long and wide for the name, and, with a piece of ivory, or other hard, smooth material, burnish it until smooth. Now wet the glass with a thin solution of gum arabic or thin mucilage, and lay the foil in the position you wish the name to appear, and carefully rub it down with a cloth to the glass. The more it is burnished the better it will look.

Carefully cut from a newspaper the letters from the advertisements that you require for the name, selecting only those that are heavy and the proper size, and stick them on the tin-foil after having drawn a line to go by. Be sure you begin at the right-hand end of your tin-foil, and place all the letters backwards. When thoroughly dry, take a sharp-pointed knife and carefully cut around each letter, removing the tin-foil from between, and then rub the edges of the letter down smooth with the back of your knife. Next, make a line around the edge of the glass by sticking on the foil of any width you choose for the size of the plate. Now get some black asphaltum or japan, and with a smooth brush paint over the back of the glass and the letters thus forming a background. For a frame use tin, cut and formed as suits you best, after which put two or three coats of the japan over it and allow it to dry. It is now all ready to put on the door.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR CURTAIN POLES.

FOR hanging curtains at bedroom windows, don't use heavy poles and rings. If the draperies are of lace, muslin or other light material, it is obvious, once the attention is called to it, the support is strong out of all proportion to the thing to be supported, and this is contrary to all decorative canons.

The very prettiest and simplest substitute is a narrow strip of pine wood, such as is commonly put into the lower hem of Holland shades. On these strips the lace or muslin is

to be gathered. They cost two or three cents each, and can be had at any place where shades and curtains are sold. A hem almost half an inch wider than the stick should be made in the top of the curtain goods, and the stick inserted, the fulness being evenly distributed along it. A space of half an inch should be left bare at each end, and small shingle nails, one at each end, driven through into the window frame. The nails should not be driven in up to their heads, but left a little free, so that they may be easily removed when the time comes for washing the curtains.

This simple little plan has been adopted by a large firm of house decorators, and has been by them introduced into some very handsome houses. A pretty variation may be made by leaving a heading above the hem in which the stick is inserted. In this form the little strips of wood have even found their way into the parlor.

TO MEASURE FOR WALL PAPER.

TO measure a room in order to find out how many rolls of paper will be required to cover the walls, multiply the length by the height of each wall, add together the number of square feet of the walls, getting total number of square feet.

Allow one-half roll of paper for each door and window. Divide the whole amount by thirty-three, which will give you the number of rolls of paper required for the walls, including waste.

GEO. LEE BRUCE.

SIMPLE DRAPERY FOR A CHAMBER DOOR.

WHY not conceal your chamber doors? As a rule, they are plain paneled affairs, such as are turned out of the mills by the million, and not capable of much, if any, adornment. To do so cheaply and neatly is a very simple affair. For a chamber the French or American cretonne is pretty and inexpensive.

Measure the height of your door for length of goods, and allow half a yard extra for a valance at the top. If your cretonne comes in fifty-inch width, which most of it does, one width will be enough, but if the narrower goods are used, it would be advisable to get two. To put it in place, cut your length a trifle shorter than the length of the door, tack it at the top of the door in fairly wide pleats hanging perfectly plain from top to bottom. It would be well to catch the curtain with tacks hidden in the folds about half way down the bottom, to keep it in place when the door is opened. At the top add a valance about half a yard deep, finished at top and bottom, pleated in deep folds and tacked on about three inches from the top, covering the tacks with a wide braid. With one or more doors in the room and the windows draped simply with the same material, the effect will make a much more dainty, comfortable and home-like room than could be brought about without covering these plain, box-like panels.

With a little care and patience, this work can be done by the amateur at home.



A Decorative Suggestion.